DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 392 454 IR 055 836

TITLE	Purchasing an Encyclopedia: 12 Points To Consider. Fifth Edition.
INSTITUTION	American Library Association, Chicago, Ill.
REPORT NO	ISBN-0-8389-7823-1
PUB DATE	96
NOTE	43p.
AVAILABLE FROM	American Library Association, 50 East Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611 ($7.95).
PUB TYPE	Books (010) -- Guides - Non-Classroom Use (055) -- Book/Product Reviews (072)
EDRS PRICE	Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	Costs; *Encyclopedias; *Evaluation Criteria; *Library Acquisition; *Library Material Selection; Media Selection; Multimedia Materials; Optical Data Disks; Printed Materials; Purchasing; Reference Materials

ABSTRACT

This book discusses issues to consider when purchasing an encyclopedia and provides reviews of eight print encyclopedias, six CD-ROM encyclopedias, and one online encyclopedia. Each review provides an address and discusses the history, scope and treatment, and quality and currency of the encyclopedia; for CD-ROM encyclopedias, the database structure is described. An introduction discusses why to purchase or subscribe to an encyclopedia; the need for encyclopedias in an "online world"; whether to select print or electronic encyclopedias; and how to select and purchase an encyclopedia. Twelve points to consider before purchasing an encyclopedia are described and include the following: (1) authority; (2) arrangement; (3) subject coverage; (4) accuracy and objectivity; (5) recency; (6) approach; (7) style; (8) bibliographies; (9) illustrations; (10) multimedia; (11) physical format; and (12) yearbooks and other special products. Print and CD-ROM specifications summary charts are also provided. (AEF)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****